

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

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A magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the  
old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers

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October 1979

Whole No. 539

## Ellis' Ten War Chief Tales

By Denis R. Rogers



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 211

LIVES OF GREAT AMERICANS

Publisher: Beadle and Adams, 98 William St., New York, N. Y. Issues: 13.  
Dates: May 8, 1876 to April 23, 1877. Schedule: Every 4 weeks. Size: 6¾ x  
4¼". Pages: 80 to 100. Price: 10c. Illustration: Colored cover. Contents:  
See list of titles elsewhere in this issue.

## Ellis' Ten War Chief Tales

By Denis R. Rogers

The writing career of Edward S. Ellis can be divided into roughly two broad periods, the paperback period (1860-1882) and the hardback period (1883-1916). The subject of this short article falls within the latter period, namely from 1897 to 1906. During that time ten tales, with a famous Indian warrior as the leading character in each, made their first appearance in cloth book form. These ten stories are all elusive books from the collector's standpoint; taken as a group they provide an interesting study for the admirer of Edward S. Ellis.

First of the ten to appear was "Uncrowning a King. A Tale of King Philip's War" by Edward S. Ellis, A.M. (New Amsterdam Book Company : New York : 1896 : 312 pages). This book was being sold in London in February 1897 at 6s/-d. Undoubtedly this was what is known as a ballast book. In those far off days the U.S.A. bought more from the United Kingdom than she exported to that country. The result was that vessels frequently made the eastward Atlantic crossing with little or no cargo. The deficiency was made up in part by using books as ballast and then selling them in England on arrival. I have never seen a ballast book, but it seems likely that it would be in no way distinguishable from a copy bought in the U.S.A. and carried across the Atlantic by a passenger. 1899 saw the issue of a new edition of "Uncrowning a King" by The Penn Publishing Company of Philadelphia and that firm kept the book in print until at least 1928. Cassell & Company Limited produced an English edition in September, 1899. Probably in 1903, although the exact date is uncertain, Cassell changed the title to "The Last Struggle. A Tale of King Philip's War." I have also seen the title "The Great Struggle" advertised at the back of other Cassell books, but am inclined to think that was a printer's error for "The Last Struggle."

"Uncrowning a King" has been confused with "An American King. A Story of King Philip's War" by Edward S. Ellis in more than one work of reference. Although the historical background is the same, the stories and the principal fictional characters are quite different. "An American King" (482 pages) was Number 1 of Ellis' "Colonial Series" and had as companion stories Numbers 2 and 3, "The Cromwell of Virginia. A Story of Bacon's Rebellion" and its sequel, "The Last Emperor of the Old Dominion." These three excellent tales of Colonial days were all published in 1904 by Henry T. Coates & Company of Philadelphia. It is hard to understand why Cassell, who had a working agreement with Coates and their successors, The John C. Winston Company, never put out English editions.

Second of the ten and first of six published by E. P. Dutton & Company of New York under the Ellis pseudonym, Colonel H. R. Gordon, was "Pontiac,

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Published six times per year at 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kansas 66044.  
Edward T. LeBlanc, editor, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass. 02720. Second class  
postage paid at Lawrence, Kans. 66044. Assistant Editor, Ralph F. Cummings,  
161 Pleasant St., South Grafton, Mass. 01560. Subscription: \$5.00 per year.  
Ad rates—10c per word; \$2.00 per column inch; \$4.00 per quarter page; \$6.00  
per half page and \$10.00 per full page.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kans. 66044

Chief of the Ottawas. A Tale of the Siege of Detroit" (1897 : 300 pages). The English edition, with Edward S. Ellis shown as the author, came out in September 1897 under the imprint of Cassell & Company Limited. Two months later the Dutton edition was on sale in London at 6s/6d. It would be interesting to know if these ballast books proved saleable, for the Cassell edition was being offered for only 2s/6d., and was every bit as handsome a volume.

"The Life of Pontiac the Conspirator, Chief of the Ottawas" (Hurst & Company : New York : 1910 : 230 pages) should not be confused with the Colonel H. R. Gordon tale. The latter is fiction on a background of fact and the Hurst book is a straight hardback reprint of Ellis' early biography (Beadle's Dime Biographical Library No. 7 : 1861).

Third of the ten came "Tecumseh, Chief of the Shawanoes. A tale of the War of 1812" by Colonel H. R. Gordon (E. P. Dutton & Company : 1898 : 312 pages). The English edition (Cassell & Company Limited : London) hit the bookstalls in September 1898 under the title, "Scouts and Comrades or Tecumseh, Chief of the Shawanoes. A Tale of the War of 1812" by Edward S. Ellis. This story should not be confused with the biography written by Ellis for Beadle in 1861 under the title, "The Life of Tecumseh the Shawnee Chief." So far as I know that biography was never reprinted in cloth, but it is just possible that Hurst & Company put out a hardback edition.

Fourth of the ten, "Osceola, Chief of the Seminoles" by Colonel H. R. Gordon (E. P. Dutton : New York : 1899 : 322 pages). Cassell's English edition (September 1899) bore the title, "In Red Indian Trails or Osceola, Chief of the Seminoles" by Edward S. Ellis.

Hard on the heels of "Osceola" came the fifth of the ten, "Iron Heart, War Chief of the Iroquois" by Edward S. Ellis (Henry T. Coates & Company: Philadelphia : War Chief Series No. 1 : 1899 : 386 pages). The Coates edition was selling in London as a ballast book in November 1899, but the Cassell English edition did not come on the market until September 1900. It is interesting to note that the original serial version of this tale ("Golden Argosy" : 1888) was entitled, "Red Eagle, War Chief of the Iroquois." A second serialization ("The Holiday" : 1891) had the title amended to "Iron Heart, War Chief of the Iroquois." So far I have not located a serial of "Red Eagle"—see below (eighth of the ten).

Sixth of the ten came the last of the Colonel H. R. Gordon tales to be reprinted in England by Cassell & Company Ltd. It was "Red Jacket, the Last of the Senecas" (E. P. Dutton : New York : 1900 : 347 pages), put out by Cassell in September of the same year, with Edward S. Ellis as the author.

Seventh of the ten was Number 2 of "The War Chief Series," "Blazing Arrow. A Tale of the Frontier" by Edward S. Ellis (Henry T. Coates : Philadelphia : 1900 : 289 pages). Cassell & Company produced their first English edition in September 1901.

Eighth of the ten and Number 3 of "The War Chief Series" was "Red Eagle. A Tale of the Frontier" by Edward S. Ellis (Henry T. Coates : Philadelphia : 1901 : 296 pages). When putting out an English edition in September 1901, Cassell & Company changed the title to "The Chieftain and the Scout. A Tale of the Frontier."

Ninth of the ten, "Logan the Mingo. A Story of the Frontier" by Colonel H. R. Gordon (E. P. Dutton : New York : 337 pages) appeared in September, 1902. An English edition by Edward S. Ellis was published in October, 1902 by W. & R. Chambers Limited of Edinburgh.

The last of the ten could almost be called an afterthought, for "Black Partridge or The Fall of Fort Dearborn" by Colonel H. R. Gordon (E. P. Dut-

ton : New York : 302 pages) did not come out until four years later, namely September 1906. W. & R. Chambers took over two years more to get around to the issue of an English edition. This appeared in November 1908 and was the only one of the Colonel H. R. Gordon stories published in the United Kingdom under that pen name.

No finer examples of the handsome juvenile volumes of the turn of the century, with their sturdy binding, bold type, quality paper and attractive illustrations, can be found than the first Cassell editions of items one to six. Close runners up to those as impressive examples of fine book production are the original E. P. Dutton editions of the six Colonel H. R. Gordon tales. Moreover, if you are still boy enough to enjoy a well written, exciting story, set against an accurate historical background, you will enjoy reading Ellis' ten war chief tales.

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### LIVES OF GREAT AMERICANS

1. The Life of George Washington, by C. H. H. Pannell. May 8, 1876.
  2. The Life and Exploits of John Paul Jones, Chevalier and Rear-Admiral, by Orville J. Victor. June 5, 1876.
  3. The Life, Times and Services of Anthony Wayne, by Orville J. Victor. July 3, 1876.
  4. The Life and Times of Colonel Ethan Allen, the Hero of Ticonderoga, by Orville J. Victor. July 31, 1876.
  5. The Life and Services of Major General, the Marquis de Lafayette, by E. P. H. (E. P. Hollister). Aug. 28, 1876.
  6. The Life and Times of Colonel Daniel Boone, the Hunter of Kentucky, by Edward S. Ellis. Sept. 25, 1876.
  7. The Life and Adventures of Colonel David Crockett, by Edward S. Ellis. Oct. 23, 1876.
  8. The Life and Times of Israel Putnam, Major General in the Continental Army, by Orville J. Victor. Nov. 23, 1876.
  9. The Life and Times of Christopher Carson, the Rocky Mountain Scout and Guide, by Edward S. Ellis. Dec. 23, 1876.
  10. The Life of Tecumseh, the Shawnee Chief, by Edward S. Ellis. Jan. 23, 1877.
  11. The Private and Public Life of Abraham Lincoln, by Orville J. Victor. Feb. 23, 1877.
  12. Life of Pontiac, the Conspirator, Chief of the Ottawas, by Edward S. Ellis. Mar. 23, 1877.
  13. The Life of Ulysses Sydney Grant, General, U. S. Army, by Edward Will-et. April 23, 1877.
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## A Sketch Of Hezekiah Butterworth

By Jack Schorr

Hezekiah Butterworth, here is a name that does not mean much to the average American today. Unless he is a collector of early juvenile books like myself and others.

Back in the 1880's there were few boys in Boston or even New England who didn't know Mr. Butterworth, and yes, love him.

He was never too busy to listen to problems brought to him by a boy or girl. He answered every letter with encouragement to aspiring young writers. He didn't turn down many requests for financial help from the young or old.

He was born in 1839 in Warren, Rhode Island. He spent his boyhood on the farm his ancestors had for more than 200 years. As a boy he was constantly writing to local papers and getting articles in. He was not physically strong and farming didn't suit him.

He left the farm at an early age and went to Boston, which was the place to go then if a young man had literary aspirations. He worked hard, he didn't write a book and become a success. His first job in Boston was a proof reader with a newspaper there. When he was thirty years old, he got an editorial position on the "Youth's Companion" and he remained one of its editors for 25 years and wrote many of the stories that appeared in it. He was also a contributor to "St. Nicholas" Magazine. He never married, but his interest in young people was always very great.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, Mr. Butterworth wrote more than 60 books. In my own collection I have many. He was well known for the "Zig Zag Journeys" books he wrote, of which there were 17. In 1883, well over 100,000 volumes of Zig Zag Journeys were sold. This was remarkable for these books to sell that well, as they were filled with history and travel. But Butterworth did an excellent job of creating interest that appealed to the older youth and adult. Estes and Lauriat did a beautiful job in publishing these with their colorful boards front and back in the first editions. Almost every page contained an illustration which added to their interest.

He wrote many patriotic tales which D. Appleton published in a most attractive fashion, very much like the ones they published of W. O. Stoddard's. Some of the better known were "The Patriot Schoolmaster," "The Knight of Liberty," "The Boys of Greenway Court," "In the Boyhood of Lincoln," "The Wampum Belt." When I find these in very good condition I don't pass them up. Beautiful additions to my library.

Hezekiah wrote a Young Folks History Series, Young Folks History of Boston, Young Folks History of America, etc. Estes and Lauriat also published these.

He wrote hundreds of short stories and poems that never appeared in book form. He usually wrote with the central figure being some noted American with a life history with which boys of that period should be familiar and I might say, I wish boys of today were familiar with, also.

He was an untiring story teller. And it was not uncommon for a couple dozen boys of one of the Boston Boys Clubs to go to his oldfashioned home on Worcester Street and Mr. Butterworth would regale them with stories of the mementoes that filled the room, the flags, pictures, autographs and books. Books were everywhere, on shelves, tables and on the floor.

His aim was to strengthen the moral character of the youth and give them inspiration which he did so well in his books and stories.

He was a man of deep religious convictions, he was active in his church and was a teacher in one of Boston's largest Sunday Schools at that time, a position he held for years.

He was not a writer of great books. What he wrote counted for much in the growing good of the world in his day.

When Hezekiah passed away back on September 8, 1905, he was laid to rest in the cemetery at Warren, Rhode Island. The public schools of that town closed for the day, and the pupils marched in a body to the First Baptist Church where each placed a sprig of golden rod upon the casket of one they loved and one who cared for them. Yes, he was loved by the young people who knew him and read his books.

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Some of the foregoing information was obtained from the files of the "American Boy" and "Youth's Companion."

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## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

### New Members

- 383 William D. Gurtman, 29 Abeel St., Yonkers, N. Y. 10705 (Former memb.)
- 384 Jacques H. Fahrner, 13 Churchill Drive, Rochester, N. Y. 14616
- 385 Milton Cohen, 2645 Homecrest Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11235
- 386 Jim Bob Tinsley, P. O. Box 311, Ocala, Florida 32670 (Former member)
- 387 Ola Strom, Postboks 2124, N-7001 Trondheim, Norway
- 388 Brenda J. Bruno, Boise State Univ., Dept. of English, Boise, Idaho 83725
- 389 Herbert L. Ristten, P. O. Box 161, Baraboo, Wisc. 53913 (Former memb.)
- 390 Byron Erickson, P. O. Box 35037, Tucson, Arizona 85740
- 391 Perry's Antiques & Books, 1863 W. San Carlos, San Jose, Calif. 95128
- 392 Morris Library, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware 19711
- 393 Abe Feldenkreis, 8945 Fairfield St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19152

### Change of Address

- 215 Richard R. Seldon, 1 Kirkland Drive, Andover, Mass. 01810
  - 241 S. K. Winther, 4747 16th Ave. N. E., Apt. 37, Seattle, Wash. 98105
  - 123 Dr. John W. Machen, 8025 York Road, Apt. A-4, Towson, Md. 21204
- 

To date the University of Minnesota Libraries Children's Literature Research Collections has approved grants for the following projects.

M. Sarah Smedman, Assistant Professor, English, University of North Carolina at Charlotte. "Images and Archetypes of the Young Woman in Girls Series Books."

Ralph D. Gardner, Writer and bibliographer. "A History of Street & Smith Publishing Co. to be a major segment of the volume title 'Publishers for Mass Entertainment in the 19th Century'." This will be part of the new project, edited by Madeleine B. Stern, Encyclopedia of American Publishing to be published by Bruceoli Clark Publishers.

Rosa Ann Moore, Assistant Professor of English, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. "Edward S. Ellis, Dime Novelist."

## Horatio Alger Goes Greeley: From Wretches to Riches

By David Soibelman

By Special Permission of the Los Angeles Times

On an unseasonably warm day in February, 1877, the Central Pacific train from Salt Lake City dropped off at its San Francisco terminal a small, dumpy figure of a man who carried a small handbag and a pathetic hope of becoming a great novelist in the style of Emile Zola.

The passenger was Horatio Alger Jr., who never realized his lofty ambition but whose 135 rags-to-riches books for boys sold into the hundreds of millions, topping even the contemporaneous McGuffey Readers. Many of the country's leaders—in business, industry, politics, the professions—boasted they had read his books and followed the guidelines implicit in the stories: Work hard, persevere, seize opportunities, be lucky and you'll succeed.

Alger at 45 had crossed the continent to seek new plots and unusual characters in settings far removed from the steaming streets of post-Civil War New York where newsboys, shoeshine lads and curb merchants had furnished the literary filaments of stories which critics and parents even then called "trash." But the youngsters who read them found them fascinating and Sunday school teachers gave them as prizes because of their high moral tone.

He died 80 years ago come July 18, but the interest which made publishing history has been revived lately by publication in hardcover and paperback of his better-known and newly discovered works; revision and reprinting of biographies; analyses of the man and his output by critics; feature stories, and the use of his name in obituaries of men who followed the examples of Alger's heroes.

He had come West, this little fellow—5 feet, 2 inches—at the suggestion of Bret Harte, one of his many distinguished friends, and his publisher, A. K. Loring, who had learned that sales of Alger's works were increasing steadily in the West. Conversely, Loring believed, boys in the East would be entranced by stories of adventures in the Western cities, mining camps, farms and sea-ports.

Alger was met at the terminal by his brother James, an optometrist whose offices on Market St. and two-story mansion overlooking San Francisco Bay proved he, too, had succeeded like his brother's "heroes." A few weeks were spent in fraternal reminiscing, riding cable cars, walking around town from the Presidio to the bustling harbor area, visiting Chinatown, amusement parks, a small zoo and an art gallery.

Horatio had to make his farewells when he thought of the purpose of his transcontinental trip. Regretfully, he informed James he had to leave for the gold fields to gather elements for new stories to entertain his constituency of boys in the East and Midwest.

Alger crossed the Bay by ferry, rode up the Sacramento River, by stage to Marysville and then, astride a rented horse, cantered along the Yuba River until he reached the gold fields.

There were a few old '49ers and some latecomers working the streams and hills when the doughty little man from the streets of New York opened dialogues. The men were willing, many eager, to talk. The result was tall and sometimes true tales told by miners to a man who had given up the Unitarian ministry to live in the Newsboys Lodging House on Fulton St. to be close to the stories of his street boys.

With his notebooks filled, Alger continued on his way to Oregon through Indian lands, across the Columbia River into Washington, ending his journey at Seattle. A steamer from this lumber port took him back to San Francisco, where he boarded a four-masted schooner for the long and dangerous voyage around the Horn to his home in New York.

It was September, 1877, and he immediately started work on books rooted in his travels. He was a fast writer, often working on two or three stories at the same time, and when he finished one, neither Alger nor his publisher allotted much time to consideration of titles. They were simple and pointed. Books of the West were aptly published as "The Pacific Series." Among them were "Joe's Luck, or A Boy's Adventures in California," a tale of mining camps "Ben's Nugget, A Boy's Search for Fortune"; "Digging for Gold, or A Story of California"; "The Young Adventurer, or Tom's Trip Across the Plains," and "Julius, the Street Boy Out West." All sold well.

Alger's trip to the West followed the admonition of his friend Horace Greeley, but it began as a result of his love for children. He accompanied a trainload of children from New York to Independence, Kansas, where the Children's Aid Society distributed them to families that offered new homes and a new start in life.

Early in his writing career, he proved his devotion to the children of New York who had been abandoned or gone astray in the great backwash of the Civil War. In "Phil the Fiddler," he attacked the vicious padrone system with a story of one of its victims, and the sensation it caused resulted in the passage of the New York State Legislature's first law forbidding cruelty to children. He became a generous contributor and an eager propagandist for the Fresh Air Fund Society—established by his friend Whitelaw Reid, publisher of the New York Tribune—to send street children into the country for summer vacations.

Alger, even his friends concede, lacked literary skill, but his books had an unbeatable appeal despite unimaginative plotting, wooden characters, pedestrian and pietistic prose and anticipated endings.

The present-day "instant publication" of books after such events as the mass suicides in Guyana was anticipated by Alger's publishers. Three weeks after President James A. Garfield was assassinated by Charles J. Giteau in the Pennsylvania station in Washington on July 2, 1881, Alger's full-length inspirational biography, "From Canal Boy to President," was ready for the press.

But his low level as a literary man despite his background and education is still a puzzling anomaly. The senior Alger was a dedicated Unitarian minister, a member of the Massachusetts Legislature, and a fighting abolitionist. His son, the writer, was graduated at 19 from Harvard's class of 1852, elected to Phi Beta Kappa, chosen class orator and delivered the commencement oration, "Cato's Return From Banishment" (he was inspired by having heard Daniel Webster in a Fourth of July oration). He had been awarded prizes for writings and declamations in Greek and Latin and taught himself French and Italian, was graduated from Harvard Divinity School and ordained into the Unitarian ministry, fulfilling his father's hope.

Family and friends expected him to shine in a brilliant career as a minister, a classics professor or writer on lofty topics, but after a brief stint in the pulpit (his congregation was glad to be rid of him), he fled for the life he wanted, the books about the boys he loved and the sordid surroundings in which he found them.

His older friends were among the most prestigious and influential of the 1850-90 period. Alger was in the company of such lights as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, under whom he studied at college; Benjamin Nathan Cardozo, whom he tutored in Greek and Latin and prepared for his bar exam; Joseph Choate, a classmate, later America's ambassador to St. James'; Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune and a firm supporter in his expose of the padrone system; Mark Twain; U. S. Grant; Louisa May Alcott; Harriet Beecher Stowe; P. T. Barnum; Charles Dana, editor of the New York Sun; Joseph Seligman, founder of a great banking house, whose children Alger tutored; Charles Evans Hughes as a fledgling attorney; the incomparable John L. Sullivan, the "Boston Strong Boy," and Herbert H. Lehman, New York State's longtime governor, with whom Alger walked as a boy.

A cousin, Russell A. Alger, was secretary of war in the McKinley cabinet and the man who dispatched Adm. George Dewey to destroy the Spanish fleet.

Alger's stories of adventure in California, written after his own travels in the West, stirred his mind in 1897 when news of the gold rush in the Klondike and Alaska flashed through the land. Alger at once set to work on a story set in that part of the world but after a few pages he dropped it. He was tired. He was ill. He was 65. Asthma and bronchitis weakened the little man with the big heart. On July 18, 1899, he dozed off into an adventure he could not describe.

\* \* \*

Soibelman is a retired newspaperman now free-lancing and enjoying a juvenile literature collection.

## WANTED

### SINGLE ISSUES and BOUND VOLUMES of Pre-1907 PERIODICALS AND MAGAZINES

#### SINGLE ISSUES

American Boy Magazine, 1907, January thru May, inclusive.

Argosy, Volume XIV, Issues # 501, 502, 503, 504 and 505.

Bright Days, Volume III, issue #20.

Comfort Magazine, 1902, April thru December, inclusive.

1907, January thru December, inclusive.

Gleason's Monthly Companion, 1874, issues of February and June.

Golden Argosy, Volume III, issues 105, 106, 107, 108, 111, 112, 113, 114, 116, 117, 143, 144, 145, 147 148, 149, 150, 151, 154, 155 and 156.

Golden Days, Volume I, issue #21. Volume IX issues #20, 21, 22 and 23.

Golden Hours, 1901, January thru December, inclusive.

Student and Schoolmate, 1860, issues of January thru June, inclusive.

1863, January issue.

1872, issues of January, March, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

New York Weekly, almost any Alger serialization issues.

I am also interested in the above in bound Volumes, as well as Young Israel, bound.

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## CHANGES TO A Bibliography of Hard-Cover Boys' Books—Revised Ed.

By Harry K. Hudson

(Continued)

Page 41. Boy Fortune Hunters Series

Add: NOTES: Volumes 1 and 2 were initially issued as  
Sam Steele's Adventures on Land and Sea and  
Sam Steele's Adventures in Panama  
See Sam Steele Series

Page 66. Buckskin Books

Add: Dust Jacket: White colored paper, brown lettering, pictorial  
(L) in brown, different for each book.

Page 94. Don Sturdy Series

second title should be "Big Snake Hunters" (a typo I missed in  
proofing)

Page 116 and 117. Hardy Boys Series

Add:

- 56. The Jungle Pyramid 1977
- 57. Mystery of the Firebird Rocket, 1978

Page 124 and 125. Hurricane Kids

Add:

- (2) Whitman Publishing Co.  
Standard size, type 7 binding, blue or green, black letter-  
ing, plain.  
Illustrations: None

Page 132. Jerry Todd Series

Volumes 14 and 15 were illustrated by Myrtle Sheldon and Vol. 16  
by Herman Bachrach. The four illustrations were on plain paper  
Also under (2) there was a variant edition of these three titles  
where the goldfish emblem was omitted.

Page 139. Lone Ranger Books

Under first Note, add: There was also an early version, where  
this was reversed, i.e., Striker on cover and Dubois on title page

Page 155. Ned Brewster Series

Replace format unknown with the following:

Standard size, type 1 binding, chocolate brown, yellow letter-  
ing. Pictorial front, featuring the animal of the title. Spine of  
volumes 1 and 2 shows a pine tree in green, spine of volume 3  
shows a lake with green reeds.

Illustrations: Frontispiece and three on coated paper.

Artist: From photographs by the author.

Page 167 and 168. Poppy Ott Series

Volume 9 was illustrated by Myrtle Sheldon.

Page 181. Rick Brant Science-Adventure Series

This series was initially called the Electronic Adventure Stories.

**Page 185. The Rover Boys Series**

Add:

- (2b) Same as 3a except type 4-5 binding, dark red, black lettering, cover art work in white and gold. Spine design in gold. This format definitely used for first five volumes, probably all seven. Judging by the higher quality binding, it is probable that this version was issued before 3a.

**Page 186. Roy Blakeley Series**

(1) should be (2)

- (1) Grossett and Dunlap (first seven volumes). Standard size, type 1 binding, gray, brown lettering outlined in black on front, black lettering on spine. A small picture of Roy's head appears in the center of the front cover. Two versions of the pictured head have been observed. This format common to the group.

Illustrations: Frontispiece and three. All frontispieces on coated paper. Books have been observed with one, two and three of the interior illustrations on plain paper, as well as all three on coated paper. This making of interior illustrations on plain and coated paper is rather unique.

**Page 210. Tom Swift Series**

Under artist—R. H. Rogers should be Walter S. Rogers

Under notes—For very early issues the dust jacket was uncoated paper. Also for very late issues the dust jacket spine picture was changed, showing Tom without a jacket.

**Page 211. Tom Swift, Jr. Series**

Add: Notes: Volumes 14, 15, 16 and 17 were issued in a paper-back format. The titles of volume 14 and 15 were changed, respectively to "In the Jungle of the Maya" and "In the City of Gold."

**Page 244. Dave Fearless Series**

In his autobiography (The Ghost of the Hardy Boys), Leslie McFarlane claims authorship for volumes 10, 11, and possibly 15.

**Page 260. Edward S. Ellis listing**

Scratch "Boy from Reifel's Ranch." This book is by J. S. Ellis.

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## **Back Issues of Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup**

Some reprints at 30c each. Numbers 1 to 200 at 25c each. Pioneers

Index, Novel Catalogue and Birthday number.

Get them while you can, NOW

## LETTERS

Dear Ed:

I picked up an old Frank Gruber detective paperback the other day: MARKET FOR MURDER (original title: Beagle Scented Murder), copyright 1946, you would be interested in it if you haven't yet read it.

The book features a pair of disreputable P.I.s: Otis Beagle and Joe Peel, "two of the most scoundrelly and unethical private eyes to grace contemporary fiction" . . . according to the publisher's blurb.

The story concerns a George Byram who is in the business of counterfeiting rare dime novels (especially Malaeska) and selling same to unsuspecting collectors and dealers. There are several references to other dime novels and the pulp Adventure throughout the story but the plot line revolves around Malaeska (which was being hawked for \$300 in the story . . . circa 1946).

If you haven't read this one and can't find a copy let me know and I'll send you mine.

Yours, John Dinan

Dear Eddie:

The complete set of Dime Novel Round-Up which you sent have created a completely enjoyable experience for me. I have just finished a quick reading of all of the issues from the first one and feel almost as much a part of your "old gang" as you must feel yourself, and so pleased to be one of the current members.

The marrying and the dying of almost 50 years seems almost a part of my own experiences. I felt some special heartaches when Charlie Duprez and then Ed Leithead left us, and then began to feel refreshed as I would see names of current members so familiar to me now.

It is a good group of book-people that you and Ralph Cummings have drawn together. Sometimes I feel a little embarrassed about barging in so late, but the welcome and the friendliness of so many of your friends has made me feel right at home.

Thank you for the DNR.

Sincerely, Bud Conrad

Dear Ed:

I have been looking through some of the old DIME NOVEL ROUND-UPS. I have the Round-Ups from 1920's to date in consecutive order in post binders. Like to spend an evening looking them over, sure a lot of differences. The old ones gave more data on the old times and newsy stuff on the old boys. Many long gone. How come you never give any data on those of us who are still around???

Going through some of my stuff, came across a couple of the BLOOD & THUNDER story paper Frank Fries used to put out way back in the early 30's. You remember them??

Sincerely, Louis J. R. Kohrt

Dear Eddie:

That long Stratemeyer article was very good. By the way did you know that Dave Porter married his girl friend in the last chapter of the last two books in the series? Yes, I double checked. In "War Honors", he married her again!! Someone slipped up.

Paul Latimer

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(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

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Free distribution, samples, complimentary, etc.	10	10
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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete  
Edward T. LeBlanc, owner

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